

# *Chronology of Events of the Louisiana State Archives*

## *1935*

Noted Louisiana historian, Dr. Edwin A. Davis, convinced the administration of Louisiana State University that it should establish and fund an independent Department of Archives and Manuscripts to collect and preserve archival materials. Dr. Davis was then appointed director of the university archives.

## *1936*

Dr. Davis spearheaded passage of legislation enabling the university to act as repository for public records of state government. Act 258 empowered the university to collect state documents and authorized officials to turn over records to it.

## *1937 - 1941*

Dr. John Andreassen directed the Historical Records Survey of Louisiana.

## *1940*

The Public Records Act of 1940 (Act 195) stipulated that virtually all records generated for the conduct of business under the authority of the State of Louisiana were declared public records.

## *1954*

Dr. Davis took temporary leave of his post at Louisiana State University to spearhead the effort to establish a viable state archives.

## *1956*

Dr. Davis spearheaded passage of the State Archives and Records Act (Act 337 of

the 1956 Regular Session) signed by Governor Earl Kemp Long establishing the State Archives and Records Service as an independent agency under the aegis of the State Archives and Records Commission composed of the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the State Auditor.

*1958*

Dr. John Andreassen was appointed Director of the Louisiana Archives and Records Administration.

*1960*

John E. Regard was appointed Director of the State Archives and Records Commission.

*August 1961*

State Archives under the direction of John E. Regard acquired the historically significant colonial and territorial records from Avoyelles Parish. Also acquired shortly after that were the extensive records of the French Colonial Post at Opelousas.

*1965*

Raymond Downs was appointed Director of the State Archives and Records Commission.

*1966*

A. Otis Hebert was appointed Director of the State Archives and Records Commission.

*December 1966*

Provisions made by state for removing the State Archives from Peabody Hall on the LSU campus to a renovated motorcycle dealer's warehouse on Choctaw Drive.

*1972*

The State Archives & Records Commission was abolished and the State Archives became a division of the Secretary of State's Office.

*1974*

Dr. Donald Lemieux was appointed Director of the State Archives and Records Service.

*March 1977*

Archivist Winston Deville was employed to catalog Louisiana's colonial documents creating two major finding aids for colonial records at the State Archives; The Opelousas Post, 1764-1789: a Guide to the St. Landry Parish Archives Deposited at the Louisiana State Archives and Calendar of Documents of the Opelousas Post, 1764-1789 published by *Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane* in 1979.

*1979*

Governor Edwin Edwards approved the legislative initiative to authorize funding for the construction of a new State Archives building.

*June 1979*

The State acquired land on Essen Lane for the State Archives building.

*July 12, 1982*

Funding for planning & construction of the State Archives building was approved by the Legislature.

*November 1984*

Construction began on the State Archives building.

*Spring 1987*

Archives staff began relocating the collections from the Choctaw Drive location to the new facility.

*August 24, 1987*

The State Archives building was officially dedicated.

*April 2000*

Dr. Florent Hardy, Jr. was appointed State Archivist and Director of the Division of Archives, History, and Records Management.

*July 8-14, 2002*

Secretary of State W. Fox McKeithen proclaimed Louisiana State Archives Week celebrating the 45th Anniversary of State Archives: "Celebrate the Past...Prepare for a Better Future".

*October 6-12, 2002*

Secretary of State W. Fox McKeithen proclaimed Louisiana State Archives Week celebrating the 46th Anniversary of State Archives: "Preserving Louisiana's History Today".